The 5 brightest minds who will pitch their start-up at the Minds & Tech conference

In an attempt to explore the ways in which artificial intelligence fused with collective intelligence can answer some of our world's biggest challenges, the MIT Center for Collective Intelligence joined forces with the city of Toulouse and with the consultancy firm Opinno to give birth to the Minds & Tech conference.

The conference will end with the Challenging Minds Awards, where 5 selected start-ups of our Challenging Minds competition will pitch their project in front of the audience. This will be followed by a panel of experts that will ask questions in order to provide further details about each project. After more than 50 startups submitted their projects, here are the 5 that have been selected:

1. Bayes Impact, represented by Paul Duan Founder and President at Bayes Impact

With an estimated amount of 192 million people being unemployed or underemployed worldwide, Bayes Impact strives to make a change in the ecosystem. Using a scalable AI-based technology to better educate jobseekers, empower them to navigate a fast-changing labor market, and improve employment outcomes, this solution aims to be used both as a digital coach for jobseekers as well a technology that helps public employment service counselors to be more efficient in their work.

2. Sunthetics, represented by Daniela Eugenia Blanco, Co-Founder

With the environment being one of today's biggest challenges, Sunthetics aims to provide sustainable and electrically driven chemical processes to replace traditional heat-powered ones to produce materials such as Nylon. By using artificial intelligence optimization of chemical reactors in this electrically-driven procedure, 30% of raw material and energy will be saved in the process, significantly reducing manufacturing costs and further allowing the easy integration of renewable energy sources for lower CO_2 emissions.

3. BrightSign, represented by Hadeel Ayoub Founder & CTO

In a world where connectivity is everything, living with a hearing and speech disability can be straining and isolating. BrightSign aims to increase living qualities for all parties concerned by developing hardware that uses artificial intelligence to provide assistive technology. BrightSign is working on gloves that would use sensors to automatically translate sign language into text and speeches with hopes of disrupting the status-quo for assistive technology for the hearing impaired.

4 . Observe Technologies, represented by Charchris Sloan Head Engineer / AI Developer

Observe Technologies works to disrupt the aquaculture industry by using artificial intelligence to help automate production and optimize production yield. The idea is to provide farmers with Observe Technologies in order to take data-backed smart decisions and, as a result, farmers would benefit from a better use of their resources all the while increasing their end-of-the-year margin.

5. Urban Data Eye, represented by Rodrigo Delso Gutierrez - CEO & Co-Founder

In a research effort to take urbanization to new heights, Rodrigo founded Urban Data Eye. A data collecting system that uses artificial intelligence to process information on any public space. UDE optimizes urban infrastructures to maximize health and profitability, giving a new definition to smart cities.

With the Challenging Minds start-up competition, Minds & Tech aims to showcase how collective intelligence can take place in order to solve real life issues. In a participative and collective manner, the conference will allow the audience to decide which project deserves to be awarded the Challenging Mind award. The winner of the Brightest AI/CI Mind, sponsored by Mrs. AI, will obtain the opportunity to visit the MIT Center for Collective Intelligence for an exclusive look inside the research center.

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